

Bursaries and Grants Update

Actions required:

- EC to agree to abandon the idea of a New Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage, and instead of this:
- EC to agree to set up an additional funding line: the Emergency Planning Fund (EPF).
- EC to agree on the number of EPFs and the budget for one fund.

I. Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant

In January 2017 CENL introduced a grant to celebrate the enormous contribution Erland Kolding Nielsen made to the development of European libraries throughout his long and distinguished career as Director General of the Royal Library, Denmark. The annual grant awards up to €5,000 to a CENL library project which promotes international collaboration and strengthens bonds between CENL libraries. Two grants were awarded each year in 2017 and 2018, three in 2019, one in 2020, two in 2021, and three in 2022.

Status of 2022 EKN Grants

CENL Member	Details	Status
Estonia	Study tour for National Library of Estonia management team to National Library of Luxembourg in May 2022.	Completed, report on website
Lithuania	An Early Reading Forum, which will take place at the National Library of Lithuania. Due to the increasing number of coronavirus infections in the summer of 2022, the forum's format was changed to a hybrid event.	Project ongoing
Bulgaria	Exhibition "Wealth of color and tradition" opened in Sofia in Nov. 2022 with representatives from each country and the respective embassies.	Completed, report on website

Changes in the status of EKN Grants 2019 - 2021 since last EC meeting

EKN Grant	CENL Member	Details	Status
2020	British Library	Online conference "National Libraries Now: International Perspectives on Library Curation," 16 and 17 September 2021	Completed, report on website

II. Covid-19 Support Fund and Hidden Stories Fund

1. Covid-19 Support Fund

The Covid-19 Support Fund is a grant to provide funding to help CENL members respond to immediate challenges connected to the Covid-19 crisis, and offer support to adapt and reimagine ways of working together for the longer-term future. Five grants were awarded in 2020, two in 2021, and one in 2022. On 28 September 2022, the Executive Committee agreed to terminate the fund by the end of 2022.

Status of 2022 Covid-19 Support Fund

CENL Member	Details	Status
North Macedonia	Establishment of a virtual "Book Club"	Project started, upfront payment was made in June 2022

2. Hidden Stories Fund

In 2020, CENL supported IFLA's dedication to inclusion and to actively work against racial discrimination of all kinds. The Hidden Stories Fund aims to support projects to collect, preserve, research and highlight the stories from, by and related to underrepresented communities in our national collections.

In 2020, one grant was awarded for 2,500 EUR, two grants for 5,000 EUR each in 2021, and two grants for 2,000 EUR each in 2022. On 28 September 2022, the Executive Committee agreed to continue the Hidden Stories Fund for another year, i.e. in 2023. After this further year, it should be discussed whether another extension for one year would be appropriate.

Status of 2022 Hidden Stories Funds

CENL Member	Details	Status
Scotland	This project will produce a series of short videos which highlight items in the library's collection that capture the lives and stories of LGBT people throughout history.	Project ongoing
British Library	Youth-led project with support from the Library, working closely with local youth group, KCBNA (Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association).	Project ongoing

III. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

In 2022, two applications were submitted in February (by the National Libraries of Romania and Bulgaria) and approved by the CENL secretariat. After the CENL AGM agreed to increase the Skills and Knowledge Exchange (SKE) Bursary Scheme, a third application (of Bosnia and Herzegovina) could be approved. For the remainder of 2022, there are no Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries available. The secretariat will open the next call for applications in the first quarter of 2023.

Status of 2022 SKE Grants

CENL Member	Details	Status
Romania	Visit to the National Library of Sweden (Kungliga Biblioteket - KB) in June 2022	Completed, report on website
Bulgaria	Visit to the Albanian National Library in Tirana in April 2022	Completed, report on website
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Visit to the National and University Library of Slovenia in Ljubljana in December 2022	Completed, report on website

IV. Future direction of the funds

Background

On 12 January 2022, the EC decided to have a broader reflection on the new direction of the new funds (Covid 19 Support Fund and Hidden Stories Fund) in one of the upcoming meetings. During their meeting on 20 April 2022 EC members agreed to discuss the potential set up of a new emergency fund for endangered cultural heritage. In the meantime, the Board of Directors adopted the 2023 budget during the Annual General Assembly in Ankara, June 19-21. In 2023, 10,000 EUR will be available for the CENL Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary and the new funds. For EKN there is a separate budget of 15,000 EUR.

1. Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant

The Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant is a grant of up to €5.000, which is awarded to CENL member library projects that promote international collaboration and strengthen bonds between CENL libraries.

On 12 January 2022, the EC agreed that EKN be continued for four years (2022-2025).

2. Covid-19 Support Fund

The Covid 19 Support Fund was created to help CENL members respond to immediate challenges connected to the Covid-19 crisis. Since this acute situation no longer exists, the secretariat proposes to let the funding expire at the end of the year.

On 28 September 2022, the EC agreed to terminate the fund by the end of 2022.

3. Hidden Stories Fund

With regard to the Hidden Stories Fund, the secretariat sees still potential to support relevant projects but abstains from a recommendation.

The EC agreed to continue the HSF for another year, i.e. in 2023. After this further year, it should be discussed whether another extension for one year would be appropriate.

4. (New) Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage

Driven by the war in Ukraine and the resulting threat for the Ukrainian cultural heritage, the EC agreed to discuss the idea of a potential new Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage. Although triggered by the current situation, the idea has been to discuss whether a fund should be launched that is open to any CENL member seeking to save endangered cultural heritage.

On 28 September 2022 the EC agreed on a brainstorming group to discuss on how to define the terminology in order to decide whether a fund for endangered cultural heritage is really a topic for CENL.

If the EC favor the idea to go forward with a new Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage, they will have to set a mission, a scope, and a budget for the new fund. The budget would have to be taken from the 10,000 EUR that are intended for the CENL bursary program, or the Board of Directors would have to be asked to vote on a supplemental budget during the next AGM.

Some thoughts of the secretariat:

- How should „Endangered Cultural Heritage“ be defined?
- How much money should the Fund be endowed with?
- How many projects should be funded per year?

Open questions:

- How should „Endangered Cultural Heritage“ be defined?
 - It is difficult to define what is ECH, what is not.
- CENL has 46 members and has to take them all into account
 - CENL cannot spend money solely for Ukrainian ECH, and there are other threats to cultural heritage in other countries
- How much money should the Fund be endowed with?
 - Any budget CENL will provide, will be too little. With regard to the Russian war in Ukraine and the associated destruction of cultural heritage, even the whole of the CENL reserves seem to be only a drop in the ocean. Given the many different forms of CHE, any amount we spend would be „ridiculous“ in view of the actual costs. And closely related to this the next question: How many projects should be funded per year?

There are many possible threats to cultural heritage: Fire, water, earthquakes, climate change and others. In the light of these issues, the Secretariat proposes to abandon the idea of a New Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage.

5. New Fund for Emergency Planning

Instead of introducing a new fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage, the secretariat proposes a different approach, and to set up an additional funding line: the **Emergency Planning Fund (EPF)**. This fund shall be open to all CENL members, allowing them to develop an emergency plan for their national library, or to update their existing plans.

The EPF is to be launched in 2024 for three years, and should be evaluated after the first three years. CENL members should be allowed to use the fund to meet with other CENL members, for networking between CENL members, to discuss and cooperate on what is important and what needs to be taken into account in forward-looking emergency planning for their national libraries and the cultural heritage they have to safeguard. They can also be encouraged to use it for training and outreach activities. In doing so, CENL could actively and proactively contribute to preserving the European cultural heritage.

The number of EPFs and the budget for one fund must be agreed upon. The secretariat proposes to **start with 5 funds**, and allocate the fund with **up to 1,500 euros**. Each member may **apply for the fund only once**.